

a first structural end bracket and a second structural end bracket connecting two adjacent parallel chords corresponding to at least one of the at least three faces without contacting any other of the at least three chords to provide the truss span with at least one open face, the first end bracket connecting a first end of the two adjacent parallel chords and the second end bracket connecting a second end of the two adjacent parallel chords to provide an open face area between the first and second structural end brackets;

wherein the truss span has a tapered profile such that another identical truss span is capable of nesting within the open face area between the first and second structural end brackets;

wherein the first structural end bracket has two end portions and a middle portion between the two end portions, and further has an inside edge and outside edge, the outside edge being approximately flush with the first end of the two adjacent parallel chords corresponding to the open face of the truss span, and the inside edge having a shape such that the middle portion has a width that is smaller than a width of the two end portions; and

wherein the second structural end bracket has two end portions and a middle portion between the two end portions, and further has an inside edge and outside edge, the outside edge being approximately flush with the second end of the two adjacent parallel chords corresponding to the open face of the truss span, and the inside edge having a shape such that the middle portion has a width that is smaller than a width of the two end portions.

Please cancel claim 2 without prejudice.

Please cancel claim 3 without prejudice.

Please cancel claim 6 without prejudice.

7. (Amended) The truss span of claim 1 [6], wherein the at least two webbed faces include an unobstructed region at each end of the truss span, the unobstructed region extending a distance

from the end of the truss span that is at least twice the width of the middle portion of the first and second end brackets.

Please cancel claim 8 without prejudice.

Please cancel claim 9 without prejudice.

10. (Twice Amended) A system, comprising:

a plurality of truss spans, each truss span including:

at least three chords in a generally parallel orientation with respect to each other,  
wherein adjacent parallel chords form a face such that the at least three  
chords form at least three faces;

a web connecting two adjacent parallel chords for at least two of the at least three  
faces; and

at least one of the three faces having two adjacent parallel chords connected by  
two structural end brackets without the two structural end brackets  
contacting any other of the at least three chords; and

the plurality of truss spans having a tapered profile and a stacked configuration where a  
first truss span nests inside of a second truss span when the first truss span is inserted between  
the two structural end brackets of the second truss span,

wherein each of the structural end brackets has two end areas of at least a first width  
attached to the two adjacent parallel chords and further has a middle area of a thinner width.

Please cancel claim 11 without prejudice.

Please cancel claim 12 without prejudice.

13. (Amended) The system of claim 40 [12], wherein the hub is adapted to connect a third truss span in a generally horizontal direction from the hub to form a predetermined angle with the second one of the at least two truss spans in the assembled configuration.

Please cancel claim 15 without prejudice.

Please cancel claim 16 without prejudice.

Please cancel claim 18 without prejudice.

19. (Amended) The system of claim 10 [18], wherein the web is separated from a first end and a second end of the chords by a distance equal or greater to twice the width of the middle area of the structural end brackets.

Please cancel claim 20 without prejudice.

21. (Amended) The system of claim 42 [20], wherein the hub includes a cylindrical hub, each connection member including at least one cradle having a first tab and a second tab to contact the cylindrical hub, the first and second tabs extending away from the connection member to enhance stability of the connection member against the hub, the first tab being biased in a upward direction and the second tab being biased in a downward direction such that tabs from adjacent connection members do not interfere with each other at narrow angles.

Please cancel claim 22 without prejudice.

23. (Amended) The system of claim 43 [22], wherein the set of pre-formed holes includes a set of holes equally distributed around a circumference of the hub to fasten four connection

members, each connection member being separated from another connection member by approximately 90°.

34. (Amended) A system, comprising:

a hub;

a plurality of truss spans, each truss span including:

at least three chords in a generally parallel orientation with respect to each other,  
wherein adjacent parallel chords form a face such that the at least three  
chords form at least three faces;

a web connecting two adjacent parallel chords for at least two of the at least three  
faces; and

at least one of the three faces having two adjacent parallel chords connected by  
two structural end brackets; and

the plurality of truss spans having a tapered profile and a stacked configuration where a  
first truss span nests inside of a second truss span when the first truss span is inserted between  
the two structural end brackets of the second truss span, and

a plurality of connection members, each connection member including a plurality of  
members, each connection member including a tapered end adapted to connect to the hub such  
that a number of connection members are able to be attached to a single hub to radially extend  
from the hub in a single plane,

wherein the hub includes a cylindrical hub, each connection member including at least  
one cradle having a first tab and a second tab to contact the cylindrical hub, the first and second  
tabs extending away from the connection member to enhance stability of the connection member  
against the hub, the first tab being biased in a upward direction and the second tab being biased  
in a downward direction such that tabs from adjacent connection members do not interfere with  
each other at narrow angles.

35. (Amended) A system, comprising:

a plurality of truss spans, each truss span including:

at least three chords in a generally parallel orientation with respect to each other,  
wherein adjacent parallel chords form a face such that the at least three  
chords form at least three faces;

a web connecting two adjacent parallel chords for at least two of the at least three  
faces without the two structural end brackets contacting any other of the at  
least three chords; and

at least one of the three faces having two adjacent parallel chords connected by  
two structural end brackets; and

the plurality of truss spans having a tapered profile and a stacked configuration  
where a first truss span nests inside of a second truss span when the first  
truss span is inserted between the two structural end brackets of the second  
truss span, and

at least one hub;

a plurality of connection members adapted to connect the truss spans to the hub;

wherein the hub includes a cylindrical wall, and a set of pre-formed holes for use to fasten  
connection members to the hub,

wherein the set of pre-formed holes includes a set of holes equally distributed around a  
circumference of the hub to fasten four connection members, each connection member being  
separated from another connection member by approximately 90°,

wherein the hub further includes a set of pre-formed slots for use to fasten connection  
members to the hub, the slots being positioned between the holes.

Please add claims 37 – 43 as follows:

37. (New) A truss span, comprising:

at least three chords in a generally parallel orientation with respect to each other, wherein  
adjacent parallel chords provide a face of the truss span such that the at least three chords provide

at least three faces, wherein each of the at least three chords includes a cylindrical chord and wherein:

each cylindrical chord has a cylindrical wall, a first end and a second end, each end of the cylindrical chord having an end plug with an aperture;

a first access opening and a second access opening through the cylindrical wall, the first access opening being proximate to the first end of the cylindrical chord and the second access opening being proximate to the second end of the cylindrical chord,

the apertures and the access openings are sized to allow fasteners to be inserted into the access openings and through the apertures for connecting the chords from another truss span;

a web connecting two adjacent parallel chords corresponding to at least two of the at least three faces to provide the truss span with at least two webbed faces; and

a first structural end bracket and a second structural end bracket connecting two adjacent parallel chords corresponding to at least one of the at least three faces without contacting any other of the at least three chords to provide the truss span with at least one open face, the first end bracket connecting a first end of the two adjacent parallel chords and the second end bracket connecting a second end of the two adjacent parallel chords to provide an open face area between the first and second structural end brackets;

wherein the truss span has a tapered profile such that another identical truss span is capable of nesting within the open face area between the first and second structural end brackets.

38. (New) A truss span, comprising:

at least three chords in a generally parallel orientation with respect to each other, wherein adjacent parallel chords provide a face of the truss span such that the at least three chords provide at least three faces;

a web connecting two adjacent parallel chords corresponding to at least two of the at least three faces to provide the truss span with at least two webbed faces; and

a first structural end bracket and a second structural end bracket connecting two adjacent parallel chords corresponding to at least one of the at least three faces without contacting any

other of the at least three chords to provide the truss span with at least one open face, the first end bracket connecting a first end of the two adjacent parallel chords and the second end bracket connecting a second end of the two adjacent parallel chords to provide an open face area between the first and second structural end brackets;

wherein the truss span has a tapered profile such that another identical truss span is capable of nesting within the open face area between the first and second structural end brackets;

wherein:

the at least three parallel chords includes three parallel chords of approximately equal length, including a first chord, a second chord and a third chord, each of the chords having a first end and a second end;

the web includes a first web connecting the first and second chords and a second web connecting the second and third chords; and

a first end bracket connecting the first end of the first chord to the first end of the third chord, and a second end bracket connecting the second end of the first chord to the second end of the third chord; and

wherein the first end bracket has one end approximately flush with the first end of the first and third chords, and the second bracket has one end approximately flush with the second end of the first and third chords, and wherein the first bracket and the second bracket have generally concave-shaped inside ends.

39. (New) A system, comprising:

a plurality of truss spans, each truss span including:

at least three chords in a generally parallel orientation with respect to each other,

wherein adjacent parallel chords form a face such that the at least three chords form at least three faces;

a web connecting two adjacent parallel chords for at least two of the at least three faces; and

at least one of the three faces having two adjacent parallel chords connected by two structural end brackets without the two structural end brackets contacting any other of the at least three chords; and

the plurality of truss spans having a tapered profile and a stacked configuration where a first truss span nests inside of a second truss span when the first truss span is inserted between the two structural end brackets of the second truss span, and

a hub adapted to connect at least two truss spans at a predetermined angle in an assembled configuration, wherein the at least two truss spans radially extend from the hub.

40. (New) A system, comprising:

a plurality of truss spans, each truss span including:

at least three chords in a generally parallel orientation with respect to each other, wherein adjacent parallel chords form a face such that the at least three chords form at least three faces;

a web connecting two adjacent parallel chords for at least two of the at least three faces; and

at least one of the three faces having two adjacent parallel chords connected by two structural end brackets without the two structural end brackets contacting any other of the at least three chords; and

the plurality of truss spans having a tapered profile and a stacked configuration where a first truss span nests inside of a second truss span when the first truss span is inserted between the two structural end brackets of the second truss span;

a hub adapted to connect at least two truss spans in an assembled configuration, wherein a first one of the at least two truss spans extends in a generally vertical direction from the hub and a second one of the at least two truss spans extends in a generally horizontal direction from the hub.

41. (New) A system, comprising:



a plurality of truss spans, each truss span including:  
 at least three chords in a generally parallel orientation with respect to each other, wherein  
 adjacent parallel chords form a face such that the at least three chords form at least three faces  
 wherein each of the chords includes a cylindrically-shaped tube and wherein:  
     each tube has a cylindrical wall; and  
     each joint system includes:  
         a first access opening in the cylindrical wall proximate to a first end of a first tube  
             and a second access opening in the cylindrical wall proximate to a second  
             end of a second tube;  
         a first end plug with an aperture located in the first end of the first tube and a  
             second end plug with an aperture located in the second end of the second  
             tube; and  
         a fastener extending through the apertures of the first and second end plugs,  
         wherein the first truss span is adapted to be connected to the second truss span by  
             joint systems for connecting chords from one truss span to chords from  
             another truss span;  
         a web connecting two adjacent parallel chords for at least two of the at least three  
             faces; and  
         at least one of the three faces having two adjacent parallel chords connected by  
             two structural end brackets without the two structural end brackets  
             contacting any other of the at least three chords; and  
 the plurality of truss spans having a tapered profile and a stacked configuration where a  
 first truss span nests inside of a second truss span when the first truss span is inserted between  
 the two structural end brackets of the second truss span;

42. (New) A system, comprising:  
     a plurality of truss spans, each truss span including:

at least three chords in a generally parallel orientation with respect to each other,  
wherein adjacent parallel chords form a face such that the at least three  
chords form at least three faces;  
a web connecting two adjacent parallel chords for at least two of the at least three  
faces; and  
at least one of the three faces having two adjacent parallel chords connected by  
two structural end brackets without the two structural end brackets  
contacting any other of the at least three chords; and

the plurality of truss spans having a tapered profile and a stacked configuration where a  
first truss span nests inside of a second truss span when the first truss span is inserted between  
the two structural end brackets of the second truss span,

further comprising a plurality of connection members, each connection member including  
a plurality of members, each connection member including a tapered end adapted to connect to  
the hub such that a number of connection members are able to be attached to a single hub to  
radially extend from the hub in a single plane.

43. (New) A system, comprising:

a plurality of truss spans, each truss span including:

at least three chords in a generally parallel orientation with respect to each other,  
wherein adjacent parallel chords form a face such that the at least three  
chords form at least three faces;  
a web connecting two adjacent parallel chords for at least two of the at least three  
faces; and  
at least one of the three faces having two adjacent parallel chords connected by  
two structural end brackets without the two structural end brackets  
contacting any other of the at least three chords; and